

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU'S CALL ON ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY DAVIES

REF: A. ANKARA 1238; B. NICOSIA 317; C. STATE 32158

1. AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIES ON FEBRUARY 20 TO EXPRESS AGAIN HIS PERSONAL WORRIES OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS AND TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE US PREVAILING UPON THE GOT TO TONE DOWN ITS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE TALKS AND A "FEDERAL SOLUTION". DIMITRIOU SAID THAT RECENT REFERENCES TO "FEDERATION" BY GUNES, INHAN, AND ALDIKACTI, "CAUSTIC" REMARKS ABOUT DEKHLERIS APPEARING IN THE TURKISH PRESS, AND DENKTASH'S "AUDACIOUS" SPEECHES "LEAD ONE TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS A SYSTEMATIC ATTEMPT--A CONCERTED PLAN--TO SELL THE IDEA OF A FEDERAL SOLUTION TO GREECE AND THE WORLD."

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IN CONTRAST TO THE GOG WHICH IS FOLLOWING A QUIET, MODERATE,

SUPPORTIVE POLICY, THE GOT WAS ENDANGERING THE TALKS AND STRENGTHENING ELEMENTS ON CYPRUS WHICH OPPOSE THE TALKS AND FAVOR SELF-DETERMINATION.

2. MR. DAVIES RESPONDED THAT WE OF COURSE SUPPORT THE TALKS AND WE SHARE CONCERN FOR THEIR CONTINUATION AND SUCCESS. HE POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE RAISED THE TERMINOLOGY QUESTION WITH THE GOT AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT GOT POLICY REMAINS

UNCHANGED. RECENT REFERENCES TO "FEDERATION" AND "FEDERATIVE" APPEAR TO BE CLARIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN STATEMENTS IN THE GOT PROTOCOL RATHER THAN INDICATIONS OF A NEW POLICY LINE. IN ANY CASE, WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN OUR VIEW IS NOT WHAT IS SAID TO OR IN THE PRESS, BUT WHAT IS ACTUALLY OCCURRING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION WE HAVE TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE AND OTHER REPORTS FROM CYPRUS WHICH INDICATE THAT THE TWO CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE STRUCTURING OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION. WE SHOULD FOCUS ON THIS HOPEFUL ASPECT RATHER THAN ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY VERY POSSIBLY BE DESIGNED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION.

3. DIMITRIOU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ASPECT BUT ASSERTED THAT SUCH "OUT-SPOKEN" STATEMENTS SHED DOUBT ON TURKISH CREDIBILITY. WHY, HE WONDERED, WOULD THEY CHOOSE THIS TIME TO TAKE UNCONSTRUCTIVE PUBLIC POSITIONS? DAVIES SPECULATED THAT THE STATEMENTS MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE GOT'S NEGOTIATING STANCE BUT RE-EMPHASIZED THAT THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN THE TALKS AND NOT ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS. AS FOR USING OUR INFLUENCE ON THE GOT TO TONE DOWN ITS STATEMENTS, DAVIES SAID WE APPRECIATED DIMITRIOU'S CONCERNS AND WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION IN OUR DEALINGS WITH THE GOT. RUSH

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